

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 127434

62

ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-05 ISO-00 EA-03 /012 R

66611

DRAFTED BY: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN:DAM

APPROVED BY: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN

----- 005345

O 311807Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 127434

LIMDIS, ATTENTION MR. ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT PANAMA 3202 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
USCINCSO PANCANAL 30 MAY.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 3202

LIMDIS

EO 11652:: N/A

TAGS: PN, PFOR

SUBJ: TORRIJOS' DESIRE FOR TREATY THIS YEAR

REF: A. PANAMA 3165; B. PANAMA 3166

SUMMARY: THE IMPORTANCE THAT TORRIJOS PLACES UPON THE SIGNING OF
A TREATY THIS YEAR EVEN IF IT SUBSEQUENTLY ENCOUNTERS A DELAY IN
THE SENATE HAS BEEN UNDERLINED AGAIN, THIS TIME TO AP CORRE-
PONDENTT VICENTE MORALES BY A SPOKESMAN FOR TORRIJOS. SIGNING OF A
TREATY BY PRESIDENT FORD WOULD BE A "GESTURE OF GOOD FAITH" WHICH
WOULD EASE TENSE SITUATION - NEARLY AS BAD AS 1964 - THAT PANAMA
IS NOW EXPERIENCING. MORALES, IN AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED MAY 30
IN PANAMA, ALSO DISCUSSED SOME TREATY ISSUES. EMBASSY CONCURS THAT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 127434

POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN PANAMA IS TENSE. TORRIJOS' OPPONENTS

ARE SEEKING TO EXPLOIT SIGNS THAT TORRIJOS IS SOFTENING HIS CANAL POLICY OR THAT THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE FALTERING. WE BELIEVE THAT WITHIN CURRENT SITUATION IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO MAINTAIN TORRIJOS'S CONFIDENCE THAT AN ACCEPTABLE TREATY IS IN THE OFFING. SHOULD HE BECOME SUSPICIOUS THAT US EXECUTIVE IS WITHDRAWING FROM ITS COMMITMENT, HE WOULD HAVE TO MOE INTO A STANCE OF CONFRONTATION WITH US IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIMSELF POLITICALLY.

1. PANAMA DATELINE STORY BY AP'S VICENTE MORALES CONCERNING CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS APPEAR IN "LA ESTRELLA" AND "STAR AND HERALD" MAY 30. MORALES, BASING HIS STORY ON AN INTERVIEW WITH AN UNNAMED "TOP ADVISER" WHO SPOKE WITH "FULL AUTHORITY OF GENERAL TORRIJOS," WROTE THAT TORRIJOS HOPES FOR A NEW CANAL TREATY BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. THE SPOKESMAN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT PRESIDENT GERALD FORD WILL SIGN THE TREATY THAT IS AGREED UPON BY THE NEGOTIATORS" AND THAT THIS IN ITSELF WILL MEAN "A GESTURE OF GOOD FAITH" EVEN THOUGH OTHER PROBLEMS MAY ARISE WHEN THE TREATY IS SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE FOR RATIFICATION. EXPLAINING WHY THIS WAS SO, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "JUST THE SIGNING, THE RECOGNITION BY THE EXECUTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE HEARTENING STEOP THAT WILL SOFTEN THE TENSE SITUATION WE ARE NOW GOING THROUGH." HE ALSO WARNED MORALES THAT "THE SITUATION IS BECOMING AS TENSE AS IN 1964" WHEN ARMED CONFRONTATION BROKE OUT.

2. EXPLAINING THE NEED FOR CONCRETE ACTIONS THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "STATEMENTS COME AND GO BUT PANAMANIANS CAN STILL BE ARRESTED BY CANAL ZONE POLICE AND TRIED UNDER AMERICAN LAW. WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS FOR AN AGREEMENT THAT WILL RECOGNIZE OFFICIALLY PANAMA'S RIGHT TO EXERCISE ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE LAND, WATER AND AIR SPACE AT PRESENT OCCUPIED BY THE UNITED STATE, AND PATIENCE HAS A LIMIT." HE ALSO TOLD MORALES THAT THE GOP HAS INFORMATION THAT MANY RESIDENTS ON THE CANAL ZONE ARE BUYING ARMS. MORALES WROTE THAT A U.S. GOVENMENT SOURCE HAD CCONFIRMED THAT ARMS ALES HAD INCREASED DURING PAST TWO YEARS.

3. IN DISCUSSING TREATY ISSUES MORALES REPORTED THAT PANAMA WANTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 127434

THE IMMEDIATE RETURN OF TWO-THIRDS OF CZ TERRITORY, WHEREAS U.S. IS WILLING TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY ONLY ONE-THIRD. OF TREATY DURATION, HE WROTE THE U.S. WANTS 50 YEARS, AND PANAMA WILL NOT ACCEPT MORE THAN 25 YEARS. MORALES CITED PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED STATEMENTS BY TREATY ADVISER DIOGENES DE LA ROSA THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD GIVEN ASSURACNCES TO FOREIGN MINISTER TACK IN WASHINGTON THAT "CONCEPTUAL AGREEMENTS" WOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN 60 DAYS. HE ALSO SAID THAT AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S STATEMENT

(IN THE USIS VTR) THAT THE NEW STREATY WOULD PROVIDE FOR U.S. CONTROL OVER THE LAND, WATERS AND AIR SPACE NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATION AND DEFENSE OF THE CANAL WAS DESCRIBED BY GOP OFFICIALS AS "IRRITATING." THE SPOKESMAN TOLD MORALES THAT PANAMA WOULD GRANT "RIGHTS OF USE" FOR LAND, AIR AND WATER SPACE BUT WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE AWAY "SOVEREIGNTY" OVER THE ZONE.

4. COMMENT: THAT TORRIJOS PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE UPON GETTING A DRAFT TREATY THIS YEAR, EVEN IF DELAYS WILL BE ENCOUNTERED IN GETTING IT RATIFIED, HAS BEEN MADE KNOWN TO U.S. OFFICIALS THROUGH A VARIETY OF CHANNELS, DIRECT AND INDIRECT, NOW INCLUDING THE AP. TENSION HAS BEEN INCREASING IN PANAMA RECENTLY AND EVIDENCE OF IT HAS BEEN BREAKING INTO THE OPEN IN THE FORM OF STUDENT PROTESTS, THE ATTACKS ON GOP CANAL POLICY BY RADIO IMPACTO, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S SLAP BACK AT RADIO IMPACTO (SEE REFTELS). TORRIJOS' OPPONENTS AND ULTRA-NATIONALISTS ARE READY TO EXPLOIT ANY SIGN THAT TORRIJOS MAY BE WAVERING IN HIS CANAL POLICY. A TIGHTENING ECONOMIC SITUATION, INCLUDING CONCURRENT INFLATION AND INCREASED UNEMPLOYEMT, FURTHER COMPLICATES THE SITUATION. WITHIN THIS SITUATION IT IS IMPORTANT THAT TORRIJOS REMAINS REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT AN ACCEPTABLE TREATY IS BEING WORKED OUT. SHOULD HE BECOME SUSPICIOUS THAT THE U.S. EXECUTIVE IS ABOUT TO WAFFLE ON ITS 11-YEAR COMMITMENT TO PANAMA, HE WOULD HAVE LITTLE ALTERNATIVE BUT TO MOVE INTO A STANCE OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE U.S. THUS CONSOLIDATING NATIONALIST AND LEFTIST SUPPORT.

JORDEN

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY RATIFICATION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, NEGOTIATIONS, PANAMA CANAL TREATY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE127434
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN:DAM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750191-0539
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975051/aaaaahd.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 PANAMA 3165, 75 PANAMA 3166
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TORRIJOS' DESIRE FOR TREATY THIS YEAR
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, US, (MORALES, VICENTE), (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006